

## A new entropy measure of quantum system uncertainty

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**Abstract** Quantum theory is currently the most important research field. Before processing the information of a quantum system, we must first understand how to measure the uncertainty of a quantum system. Von Neumann entropy is a very classic method to measure the uncertainty of quantum systems. However, due to the particularity of quantum systems, it is very difficult to measure the uncertainty of quantum systems, so that the measurement efficiency of the classical von Neumann entropy is not high in some cases. Based on the classic von Neumann entropy and belief entropy, this paper proposes a new entropy model to measure the uncertainty of quantum systems, which can use fully the eigenvalues and eigenvectors of the density matrix of quantum systems, and give the uncertainty of the quantum system. Some numerical examples are used to prove that the proposed entropy is more efficient and reliable in measuring quantum systems than the classical von Neumann entropy. The experimental results show that the proposed entropy can measure the uncertainty of quantum systems more efficiently and reliably than the classical von Neumann entropy.

**Keywords** Quantum system · Belief entropy · Von Neumann entropy · Uncertainty

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## 1 Introduction

Human beings live in an unknown world. Boutabba and Eleuch (2020); Romagnoli (2019); Valero-Toranzo et al (2018). To address these uncertain issues, many models and methods have been proposed de Lima Bernardo (2020); Luis et al (2016); Pan et al (2020), such as quantum theory Berrada and Eleuch (2021); Chakraborty et al (2020); Yurischev (2018), complex networks, Dempster-Shafer evidence theory Turhan and Demirekler (2017), Information Volume Deng (2020a); Li et al (2021), information entropy Alkassar et al (2020); Gupta and Richhariya (2018); Karci (2016), belief entropy Anjaria (2020); Romagnoli (2020), game theory Koh and Cheong (2019); Wang et al (2018) and von Neumann entropy Farhadinia and Xu (2018); Longo and Xu (2020); ur Rehman and Shin (2019). Deng and Jiang Deng and Jiang (2020) applied the maximum uncertainty allocation to improve Dempster-Shafer belief structure. Jaunzemis et al Jaunzemis et al (2019) used the judicial evidential reasoning to gather evidence information of hypothesis resolution. Pedrycz and Bargiela Pedrycz and Bargiela (2003) applied the fuzzy membership function to improve the fuzzy modeling method of fuzzy fractal dimension. Khan and Anwar Khan and Anwar (2019) applied the weighted evidence and Dempster-Shafer combination rule to improve time-domain data fusion and applied the proposed model to classify objects. Among these theories and models, a belief entropy Deng (2020b), named as Deng entropy, is an extend of information entropy, which can evaluate uncertainties more flexible than information entropy Huang et al (2019); Wang et al (2019). Relying on the advantages on representing uncertainty, the belief entropy has been widely studied by scholars Özkan (2018); Pan and Deng (2020). Zhu Zhu et al (2020) proposed the maximum value dimension and power law of belief distribution of the maximum belief entropy. Gao and Deng Gao and Deng (2020) proposed the Pseudo-Pascal Triangle form for the maximum belief entropy. Liu et al. Liu et al (2019) applied generalized belief entropy to identify conflict evidence.

Quantum system is a very complex and interesting system Carrijo and Avelar (2019); Kurzyk et al (2018), because quantum entanglement and other phenomena exist in quantum system, so it is more complicated than general system Abdel-Khalek et al (2020b); Perez-Bernal et al (2020). In other words, quantum systems have great uncertainty due to their characteristics such as the principle of state superposition and the principle of uncertainty Alkhateeb and Abdel-Khalek (2020); Luis and Rodil (2013). The principle of state superposition makes multiple quantum states of a quantum system entangled together, and the quantum state of the quantum system is unpredictable before the quantum state collapses Abdel-Khalek et al (2020a); Gaonkar et al (2021); Mukhamedov and Watanabe (2018). Entropy theory is also used to measure the uncertainty of quantum systems Rastegin (2012); Zozor et al (2013). Steeve et al. Zozor et al (2014) proposed general entropy-like uncertainty relations under finite dimensions. Vladimir Majernik (2008) expressed the uncertainty relation by means of a new entropic function. Von Neumann Von Neumann (1955) proposed the von Neumann entropy, which has been used to measure the uncertainty of quantum systems. Specifically, to measure the uncertainty of a quantum system by von Neumann entropy, it is necessary to find the density matrix corresponding to the quantum system first Boes et al (2019), and then calculate its eigenvalues and eigenvectors ac-

cording to that density matrix Kontopoulou et al (2020); Prunkl (2020); Zhu (2020). Based on the obtained eigenvalues, the von Neumann entropy of the quantum system can be determined Duboscq and Pinaud (2020); Sakamoto and Tanimura (2020). But after our research, we found that von Neumann entropy is not as effective as imagined when measuring some quantum systems. The reason is that we believe that von Neumann entropy only relies on the eigenvalues of the density matrix, because eigenvectors can also represent the internal information of a density matrix, and the calculation of von Neumann entropy does not rely on eigenvectors. At the same time, quantum states are based on complex numbers, so measuring the uncertainty of a quantum system is more difficult than measuring the uncertainty of a general system.

This paper proposes a new entropy measure of quantum system uncertainty, which is based on von Neumann entropy and belief entropy. The proposed entropy makes full use of the eigenvalues and eigenvectors of the density matrix. In other words, the proposed entropy can fully extract the information of the density matrix representing the quantum system and is efficient. To evaluate the uncertainty of quantum systems. When the cardinalities of the eigenvectors of the density matrix are all 1, the proposed entropy will degenerate into the classic von Neumann entropy. Some numerical examples are used to verify the efficiency and reliability of the proposed entropy. The experimental results show that the proposed entropy has higher performance and reliability than the classical von Neumann entropy in measuring the uncertainty of quantum systems.

The remaining of this paper is structured as follows. Section 2 introduces the preliminary. Section 3 presents the new entropy measure of quantum system uncertainty. Section 4 illustrates the flexibility and accuracy of the new entropy measure of quantum system uncertainty. Section 5 summarizes the whole paper.

## 2 Preliminaries

Quantum systems are full of uncertainties Deng et al (2018); Rastegin (2015); Sarantoglou et al (2020). To address these uncertain issues, many models and methods have been proposed Anaya Contreras et al (2019); Deng and Deng (2021); Feng et al (2019).

### 2.1 Density Matrix

The definition of density matrix,  $\rho$ , of a quantum system in Pure State,  $|\varphi\rangle$ , as follows:

**Definition 1** (The Density Matrix of Pure State) Johnson and Horn (1985)

$$\rho = |\varphi\rangle\langle\varphi| \quad (1)$$

The definition of density matrix,  $\rho$ , of a quantum system in Mixed State,  $|\varphi\rangle$ , as follows:

**Definition 2** (The Density Matrix of Mixed State) Johnson and Horn (1985)

$$\rho = \sum_i P_i |\varphi_i\rangle \langle \varphi_i| \quad (2)$$

where,  $\{P_i, |\varphi_i\rangle\}$  is the state and probability of the system.

## 2.2 Von Neumann Entropy

Von Neumann entropy, as a classic method to evaluate the uncertainty of quantum systems Bannwarth et al (2019); Mukhamedov et al (2020), has attracted the attention and research of many scholars Gal (2019). Given a density matrix,  $\rho$ , the definition of von Neumann entropy of  $\rho$  is as follows:

**Definition 3** (Von Neumann Entropy) Von Neumann (1955)

$$S(\rho) = -Tr[\rho \ln \rho] \quad (3)$$

The Eq.(3) can be defined as follows:

$$S(\rho) = -\sum_i \lambda_i \ln \lambda_i \quad (4)$$

where,  $0 * \ln 0 = 0$ .  $\lambda_i, i \in \{1, 2, \dots, m\}$  is the eigenvalue of  $\rho$ .

## 2.3 Belief entropy

Given  $n$  is a mass function under frame of discernment  $Y$ , the definition of belief entropy is as follows:

**Definition 4** (Belief entropy) Deng (2020b)

$$E_d = -\sum_{C \subseteq Y} n(C) \log \frac{n(C)}{2^{|C|} - 1} \quad (5)$$

where,  $|C|$  is the cardinality of  $C$ .

## 3 A new entropy measure of quantum system uncertainty

The world is uncertain Berrada and Al-Rajhi (2017); Yurischev (2017), which causes a lot of issues Ion and Ion (2001); Panigrahi et al (2020); Ur Rehman and Shin (2019). The quantum system is flexibel, which means that more effective model should be proposed Dai and Deng (2020); Gao and Deng (2020); Guha and Das (2018). The von Neumann entropy can evaluate the uncertainty of quantum system effectively, which is based on the density matrix. However, the density matrix is difficult to predict, so the von Neumann entropy has limitations in evaluating quantum system. As we all know, the belief entropy has high performance in indicating uncertainty.

According to the principle of quantum state superposition, the state of a quantum system is composed of the superposition of orthogonal ground states, and the superposition weight of the orthogonal ground states is complex Jauregui et al (2018); Majernik et al (2003); Zozor et al (2008). The complex number itself has a high degree of uncertainty, so the classical von Neumann entropy cannot correctly measure the uncertainty of some quantum systems Balazadeh et al (2020); Benabdallah et al (2020). In view of the problems of classical von Neumann entropy in measuring quantum systems, this paper proposes a new entropy measure of quantum system uncertainty, which is based on belief entropy. The proposed entropy can not only efficiently measure the quantum system that can be measured by classical von Neumann entropy, but also can measure the quantum system that cannot be measured by classical von Neumann entropy. Because belief entropy can effectively measure the uncertainty of unknown systems, this section uses belief entropys ideas to propose a entropy measure of quantum system uncertainty.

**Definition 5** (A new entropy measure of quantum system uncertainty) Given a density matrix,  $\rho$ , of a quantum system, the definition of the new entropy measure of  $\rho$  is as follow:

$$D(\rho) = - \sum_i \lambda_i \ln \frac{\lambda_i}{2^{|\lambda_i|} - 1} \quad (6)$$

where,  $\lambda_i$  is the eigenvalue of  $\rho$ .  $|\lambda_i|$  is the cardinality of  $\rho$ , which means that  $|\lambda_i|$  represents how many orthogonal ground states the eigenvector corresponding to  $\lambda_i$  is composed of.

*Example 1* Assume the density matrix  $\rho$  has an eigenvector:  $|\psi\rangle = \alpha|10\rangle + \beta|01\rangle$  with eigenvalue  $\lambda_i$ , which consists of two orthogonal ground states  $|10\rangle$  and  $|01\rangle$  as follows:

$$|10\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, |01\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Then the  $|\lambda_i| = 2$ .

**Theorem 1** When all the eigenvectors of the density matrix of a quantum system consist of only one orthogonal ground state, then the proposed entropy degenerates to the classical von Neumann entropy.

*Proof* Relying on the equations of Eq.(6), the equation is obtained:

$$D(\rho) = - \sum_i \lambda_i \ln \frac{\lambda_i}{2^{|\lambda_i|} - 1}$$

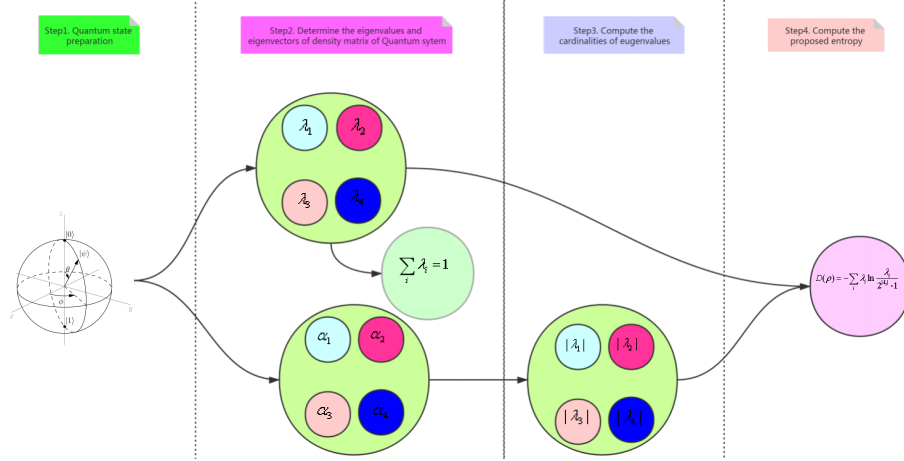
Since the all the eigenvectors of the density matrix of a quantum system consist of only one orthogonal ground state, then we can obtain that  $|\lambda_i| = 1$  for  $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, m\}$ .

Hence, the following equation can be obtained:

$$D(\rho) = - \sum_i \lambda_i \ln \frac{\lambda_i}{2^{|\lambda_i|} - 1} = - \sum_i \lambda_i \ln \lambda_i$$

In this way, the proposed entropy degenerates to the classical von Neumann entropy.  $\square$

Given a quantum system, suppose it has four eigenvalues at this time, denoted as  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3, \lambda_4$  and the eigenvectors corresponding to these eigenvalues are denoted as  $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3, \alpha_4$ . The calculation process of the proposed entropy of this quantum system can be shown in Fig. 1.



**Fig. 1** The calculation process of the proposed entropy

#### 4 Numerical examples

Numerical examples has been designed to verify the advantages of the proposed entropy compared to classical von Neumann entropy in measuring the uncertainty of various types of quantum systems.

*Example 2* Suppose the quantum system at this time is a pure state, as shown below:

$$|\psi\rangle = \frac{6e^{i\alpha}}{10}|10\rangle + \frac{8e^{i\alpha}}{10}|01\rangle$$

where,

$$|10\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, |01\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

The density matrix obtained from the above is as follows:

$$\rho = |\psi\rangle\langle\psi| = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{36}{100} & \frac{48}{100} & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{48}{100} & \frac{64}{100} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

The eigenvalues and the corresponding eigenvectors of  $\rho$  are in following Table 1:

**Table 1** The eigenvalues and the corresponding eigenvectors of  $\rho$

Eigenvalues	1	0	0	0
Eigenvectors	$\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0.6 \\ 0.8 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0.8 \\ -0.6 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$

Relying on the equations of Eq.(4) and Eq.(6), the equations are obtained:

$$S(\rho) = -\sum_i \lambda_i \ln \lambda_i = 0$$

$$D(\rho) = -\sum_i \lambda_i \ln \frac{\lambda_i}{2^{|\lambda_i|} - 1} = \ln 3$$

The comparison between the proposed entropy and von Neumann entropy is shown in following Table 2:

**Table 2** The comparison of two models

von Neumann entropy	The proposed entropy
0	$\ln 3$

From the above table, the von Neumann entropy of  $\rho$  is 0 at this time, indicating that the uncertainty of  $\rho$  calculated using the classical von Neumann entropy is 0, which is problematic, such as this. Although the quantum system in the example is in a pure state, it does not mean that it is completely certain. For example, the angle of the complex number  $\alpha$  in it is uncertain. From this we can see that the classical von Neumann entropy may be inaccuracies in measuring the uncertainty of some quantum systems. The value of the proposed entropy is  $\ln 3$  at this time, which is a number greater than 0, indicating that the uncertainty of the quantum system can be effectively measured using the proposed entropy.

*Example 3* Suppose the quantum system at this time is a mixed state, as shown below:

$$|\psi\rangle = \frac{6e^{i\alpha}}{10}|10\rangle + \frac{8e^{i\beta}}{10}|01\rangle$$

where,

$$|10\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, |01\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

The density matrix obtained from the above is as follows:

$$\rho = |\psi\rangle\langle\psi| = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{36}{100} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{64}{100} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

The eigenvalues and the corresponding eigenvectors of  $\rho$  are in following Table 3:

**Table 3** The eigenvalues and the corresponding eigenvectors of  $\rho$

Eigenvalues	0.64	0.36	0	0
Eigenvectors	$\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$

Relying on Eq.(4) and Eq.(6), the equations are obtained:

$$S(\rho) = -\sum_i \lambda_i \ln \lambda_i = -0.64 \ln 0.64 - 0.36 \ln 0.36 = 0.6534$$

$$S(\rho) = -\sum_i \lambda_i \ln \lambda_i = -0.64 \ln 0.64 - 0.36 \ln 0.36 = 0.6534$$

The comparison between the proposed entropy and von Neumann entropy is shown in following Table 4:

**Table 4** The comparison of two models

von Neumann entropy	The proposed entropy
0.6534	0.6534

From the above table, we can see that the von Neumann entropy of the quantum system and the proposed entropy are both 0.6534. In this example, we found that in some cases, the proposed entropy will degenerate into the classic von Neumann entropy, which is also the flexibility of the proposed entropy.

*Example 4* Suppose the quantum system at this time is a pure state, as shown below:

$$|\psi\rangle = \frac{e^{i\alpha}}{\sqrt{2}}|10\rangle + \frac{e^{i\beta}}{\sqrt{2}}|01\rangle$$



where,

$$|10\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, |01\rangle = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

The density matrix obtained from the above is as follows:

$$\rho = |\psi\rangle\langle\psi| = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

The eigenvalues and the corresponding eigenvectors of  $\rho$  are in following Table 5:

**Table 5** The eigenvalues and the corresponding eigenvectors of  $\rho$

Eigenvalues	1	0	0	0
Eigenvectors	$\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0.7071 \\ 0.7071 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0.7071 \\ -0.7071 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$

Relying on Eq.(4) and Eq.(6), the equations are obtained:

$$S(\rho) = -\sum_i \lambda_i \ln \lambda_i = 0$$

$$D(\rho) = -\sum_i \lambda_i \ln \frac{\lambda_i}{2^{|\lambda_i|} - 1} = \ln 3$$

The comparison between the proposed entropy and von Neumann entropy is shown in following Table 6:

**Table 6** The comparison of two models

von Neumann entropy	The proposed entropy
0	$\ln 3$

From the above table, we see that when the quantum system  $\rho$  still has large unknowns and uncertainties, the classical von Neumann entropy calculates the uncertainty of  $\rho$  to be 0, which once again illustrates the classical von Neumann Entropy is inaccurate in measuring the uncertainty of the quantum system, and the proposed entropy can measure the uncertainty of the quantum system  $\rho$  here as  $\ln 3$ , which

once again shows that the proposed entropy is better than the classical von Neumann entropy and has higher reliability when measuring the uncertainty of a quantum system.

*Example 5* Given the density matrix of a quantum system is as follows:

$$\rho = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{4} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{4} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{4} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{4} \end{pmatrix}$$

The quantum system  $\rho$  in this example is a special system, because the quantum system at this time is in a quantum fully mixed state.

The eigenvalues and the corresponding eigenvectors of  $\rho$  are in following Table 7:

**Table 7** The eigenvalues and the corresponding eigenvectors of  $\rho$

Eigenvalues	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25
Eigenvectors	$\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$

Relying on the equations of Eq.(4) and Eq.(6), the equations are obtained:

$$S(\rho) = -\sum_i \lambda_i \ln \lambda_i = -4 * \frac{1}{4} \ln \frac{1}{4} = 2 \ln 2$$

$$D(\rho) = -\sum_i \lambda_i \ln \frac{\lambda_i}{2^{|\lambda_i|} - 1} = -4 * \frac{1}{4} \ln \frac{1}{4} = 2 \ln 2$$

The comparison between the proposed entropy and von Neumann entropy is shown in following Table 8:

**Table 8** The comparison of two models

von Neumann entropy	The proposed entropy
$2 \ln 2$	$2 \ln 2$

The quantum system  $\rho$  in this example is a special system, because the quantum system at this time is in a quantum completely mixed state, and the classical von Neumann entropy will reach its maximum at this time. From the above table, we can see that the proposed entropy is equal to the classical von Neumann entropy at this time, indicating that the proposed entropy can effectively measure the most special cases of the quantum system.

*Example 6* Given a quantum state as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} |\eta\rangle &= \cos(\psi)|a_1\rangle + \sin(\psi)|a_2\rangle \\ &= \cos(\psi - \varepsilon)|b_1\rangle + \sin(\psi - \varepsilon)|b_2\rangle \end{aligned}$$

where  $\psi$  ranging between 0 and  $2\pi$ .

Based on the above form of quantum state, Garrett Portesi and Plastino (1996) proposed the generalized entropic uncertainty measure to measure the uncertainty of  $\eta$  can be shown below:

$$U_q(\hat{A}, \hat{B}; \eta) = \frac{1 - [\cos^{2q} \psi + \sin^{2q} \psi][\cos^{2q}(\psi - \varepsilon) + \sin^{2q}(\psi - \varepsilon)]}{q - 1}$$

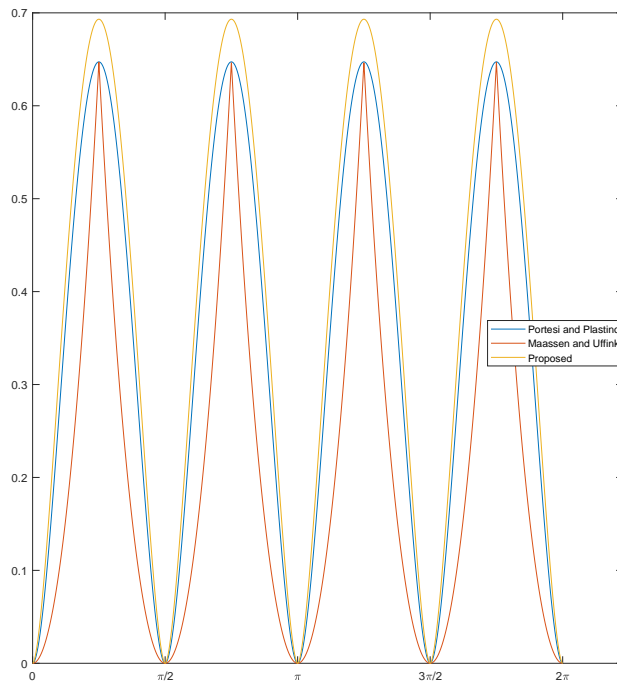
The MU-like Maassen and Uffink (1988) expression of the generalized entropic uncertainty measure to measure the uncertainty can be shown below:

$$\beta_q^{UM}(\xi) = \frac{1 - (1/c)^{2(1-q)}}{q - 1}$$

where

$$c = \max\{|\cos \varepsilon|, |\sin \varepsilon|\}$$

The comparison of three models is shown as Fig. 2.



**Fig. 2** The comparison of three models

In the above figure, the  $\varepsilon$  is the variable  $p$  compiled from 0 to  $2\pi$ , and the ordinate is the uncertainty measurement model of three quantum systems. For the convenience of calculation, we set  $\psi = \pi/2$ . From the results in the above figure, we can see that the proposed entropy is larger than the Portesi and Plastino's model, indicating that the proposed model has a higher efficiency in measuring the uncertainty of the quantum system, because it can also obtain higher Information. The curve obtained by the Maassen and Uffink's model is not smooth enough, and is too sharp and sharp at some points, which shows that its measurement is not universal in some cases. The proposed entropy is larger and smoother than Maassen and Uffink's model, indicating that the proposed model has higher efficiency and adaptability in measuring the uncertainty of quantum systems.

## 5 Conclusion

This paper proposes a new entropy model to measure the uncertainty of quantum systems, which is based on the classic von Neumann entropy and belief entropy. The proposed entropy can fully use the eigenvalues and eigenvectors of the density matrix of the quantum system, and give the uncertainty of the quantum system. When the base of all eigenvalues of the density matrix of a quantum system is 1, the proposed entropy will degenerate into the classical von Neumann entropy. Numerical examples are used to prove that the proposed entropy is more efficient and reliable in measuring quantum systems than the classical von Neumann entropy. The experimental results show that the proposed entropy can measure quantum systems more efficiently and reliably than the classical von Neumann entropy.

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## Conflict of interest

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

## Ethical approval

This article does not contain any studies with human participants or animals performed by any of the authors.

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